Safety Review Committee
September 20, 2002
10:00 AM – 12:00 PM

Minutes

Members Present

Joel Ager, Dennis Collins, Sharon Doyle, Ben Feinberg (Chair), Mack Kennedy, Ed Lampo (Secretary), Peter Lichty, Don Lucas, Steve Lundgren, Augusto Macchiavelli, Kathie Hardy (for Ron Madaras), Othon Monteiro, Linda Smith, Scott Taylor, Weyland Wong, Linda Wuy

Members Absent

John Bowerman, Linfeng Rao, Ted Sopher, Hisao Yokota

Others Present

Don Bell, John Chernowski, Nahid Mahani, David McGraw, Michael Prior, John Seabury, Otis Wong, Gary Zeman

Previous Minutes

The meeting was called to order at 10:00 AM by the SRC chair, Ben Feinberg. The July minutes were approved as submitted.

Old Business

Supervisor Training: Nothing new to report

Matrix employees: Nothing new to report.

Ergo Pilot Program: Met with Jeffrey Chung and discussed statistics for non-block funded Divisions. Identified three likely candidate Divisions for initial pilot funds; Environmental Energy Technologies, Earth Sciences, and Life Sciences. Ben will meet with Don Lucas, Mack Kennedy, Scott Taylor, and Jeffrey Chung about setting up pilot program.

Campus MOU: John Seabury stated that progress is happening. Tentatively, John will make a status report at the next SRC meeting.

MESH Review of Chemical Sciences Division

Scott Taylor, MESH Team Leader for CSD Review, commented on the marked improvement since last review. There was an overall improvement towards Safety including general attitude.

Michael Prior, CSD Deputy, described Chemical Sciences' mission, composition, and activities (copy of his power point presentation is available). There were six "Observations" listed in the MESH Review. Follows are summaries of the observations and CSD's responses.

Observation #1: Communication ***…"Chemical Sciences still has only one formal safety meeting a year. The infrequency of safety meetings may not effectively provide timely communication of safety issues to the staff. …."***

Response:

- The size of CSD has allowed informal communication methods to succeed. (E-mail, telephone, etc….) Some increase in electronic safety communications is planned.
- Regular meetings of subunits (e.g. HERL users) always include safety on the agenda.

- Emphasis should be on communicating information effectively; more meetings may not be the best way.
- Bimonthly meetings of Deputy, Safety Coordinator and EH&S liaison was initiated in 2001. This is continuing
- Management recognizes that the growth of Division may exert pressure to modify the safety meeting frequency.

Observation #2: MOU ***"…Division management does not have assurance that this (campus) staff receives adequate safety communications. Berkeley Lab should address this deficiency in the UC/LBNL MOU."***
Response:

- Negotiations on the new MOU are nearing completion.
- New agreement will likely make much clearer distinctions between UCB and LBNL responsibilities
- CSD management awaits the new agreement; modifications will be made as needed in light of the new framework.

Observation #2b: Tracking ***…"The Safety Assurance Statement is simply a signed statement And does not provide a mechanism to track EH&S concerns, such as hazard review and equivalent training for campus staff. CSD should consider following the models provided by two other divisions with significant staff presence in Appendix I space. PBD tracks equivalent Training for campus staff, and MSD requires all campus staff to complete a JHQ. However, this is primarily an institutional issue that must be addressed in the revised MOU.***
Response:

- CSD management has viewed a demo of the MSD JHQ and is planning to develop a similar JHQ. Completion of the new JHQ would be required of all Division staff.
- The prospect of tracking equivalent campus EH&S training will be investigated
- Modifications to existing approaches will not be made until the new MOU is in place, since substantial realignments may occur.

Observation #3: Chemicals ***" The Heavy Elements Research Laboratory does an outstanding job of identifying and controlling the primary hazard present in the facility, radiological hazards. However, …. There are minor concerns that require addressing. Chemical storage should be reviewed, as incompatible chemicals are stored together in some cabinets..."***
Response:

- Incompatible chemicals are normally stored separately in the HERL facility.
- The chemical storage in HERL has been reviewed and the inadvertent breakdown of this separation has been corrected

Observation #3b: EH&S ***Presence …."The agreement with EH&S Division personnel working in the facility (HERL) should also be reconsidered. Chemical Sciences takes no line management responsibility for these EH&S staff, even though they are working in a Chemical Sciences managed facility. At the least, EH&S staff should be required to read the facility safety binder that all Chemical Sciences Division staff working in the facility must read. Radioactive and hazardous materials left by EH&S in hoods should be clearly marked so that Chemical Sciences personnel can respond appropriately to an accidental spill of these materials. "***

Response:

- CSD does not wish to assume line management responsibility for EH&S personnel working in the HERL facility.
- CSD HERL facility management and staff currently exert influence on EH&S activities in the facility via their membership and participation in the legacy waste task force.
- HERL and Division management are considering instituting the requirement that all personnel working in the HERL facility read the facility safety binder and follow established HERL procedures.

Observation #4: Prioritize ***"…the Division has prioritized its safety review towards its highest hazards, radiation and ergonomic concerns. This has resulted in safety violations in chemical hygiene going undetected. Accordingly, the Division should consider incorporating expertise in this field on their self-inspection teams.***
Response:

- CSD inspection teams do not explicitly prioritize hazards (e.g., several recent findings in HERL spaces have been related to seismic safety)
- In recent years, the inspection teams have always included individuals with chemical laboratory expertise.
- Division EH&S management will make a conscious effort to ensure that chemical hygiene issues receive appropriate emphasis in future inspections.

Observation #5: Controls ***"…several deficiencies for administrative and engineering controls of hazards." (Two AHD's not signed.) "…The portable eyewash in this location (71-117) requires upgrading to meet current standards, as solvents are used in this space."***
Response:

- Missing signatures on AHD's have been obtained.
- It is not clear that an approved eye-wash unit is required. Criteria are not well defined at this time. Clarification is expected within the next month.
- Quantities of solvents in use in 71-117 are small (i.e., squeeze bottle of ethanol used for cleaning optics)
- There is no water source available in this location. Portable unit offers a level of protection similar to that available in a lab containing a sink.
- If required, institutional funds will be requested to upgrade to an approved eye-wash unit.

Observation #6: Legacy Waste ***"Lack of diligent characterization and processing for many years in the space occupied by HERL has resulted in the accumulation of 394 item considered legacy material. Chemical Sciences shares responsibility with EH&S Division for these items. …….some of the items lack appropriate labeling for hazardous materials. The MESH team encourages Chemical Sciences to continue collaboration with the EH&S Division to characterize and process the legacy materials as expeditiously as possible.***
Response:

- CSD staff have been and will continue to vigorously cooperate with EH&S to deal with this problem.
- Legacy Waste Task Force (formed roughly two years ago) has strong CSD participation.
- Goal to characterize 600 items in FY02 has been met.
- S. Benson has committed to continuing support for this effort in FY03

The Joint Genome Institute (JGI) & Production Genomic Facility (PGF)

Sharon Doyle gave an overview of the Walnut Creek based PGF. It was formed in 1997 through MOU between LLNL, LBNL and LANL. There are ~250 FTEs; 150 FTEs PGF, 60 FTEs LANL, 25 FTEs SHGC, 5 FTEs LLNL, and 10 FTEs ORNL. Of the PGF staff there are 22 in Operations, 50 in Production, 55 in Computation, 37 in Functional Genomics. The presentation included basic explanations of DNA sequencing, sequencing rate improvements, types of microbes looked at, relation to human genome, plans for 2002 -- a plethora of interesting information. Sharon would be happy to share electronic copy of the presentation.

LASER Safety Advisory

Gary Zeman explained that the departure of Berkeley Lab's Laser Safety Officer, Ken Barat, has required some reassignments. A joint x-ray and laser safety person now is covering this. Gary asks that a small group of laser users be formed to advise on how-to provide/do:

- Training
- AHDs
- PUB3000
- JHQs
- Eye Exam requirements/course
- "HEAR"

Proposed is an ad-hoc committee -- for at least one year. Interested SRC representatives are encouraged to volunteer. Don Lucas volunteered.

The meeting was adjourned at 11:34 AM.

Respectfully submitted,

Edward J. Lampo
SRC Secretary

Next Scheduled SRC Meeting: November 15, 2002, 10:00 AM – Noon, Bldg.90-Rm.1099